



# The Cross Word

August 2020

*From Pastor Lisa,*

***For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. Ps. 139:13-14***

How well do you know yourself? Pretty well. Right? I mean, you've known yourself ever since you were born. You've gotten acquainted with your foibles and failings and all your other strengths and attributes, both physical and mental/intellectual/emotional.

Me too. Which is why I was so surprised the other day, when I had a checkup at the dermatologist. My family tends toward skin cancer, so she always takes pictures of this and that to make sure that no moles are growing in a sinister way.

As she did this, the nurse commented on the birthmark on my back. Now, I have always known I have a birthmark on my back, just between my shoulder blades – although I cannot see it, no matter how I contort myself with mirrors. I've been told it looks like a large bruise – one walk in visit, the physician even asked questions regarding whether anyone had hit me. (I appreciated the concern and the question, but no – that never happened, thankfully.)

So I've imagined, though never seen, this purply-bluish-brown bruisy looking birthmark. I was told it's called a Mongolian spot, which as a child I thought sounded exotic, but now just sounds unduly racist. Anyway: the nurse spontaneously asked, this visit, when I mentioned I'd never seen it, if I'd like to see a picture of it. Yes!!

They no longer use the fancy cameras with giant lenses that they used to, thanks to smartphones. So seconds later, I was looking at my never-before-seen-by-me back. I think the nurse actually laughed out loud at the incredulous look on my face.

It didn't look like a bruise. It looked like a sunburst – like someone had hit me smack between the shoulder blades, a direct hit with a purple paintball blast. I was stupefied!

I realize that just seems silly. But truly, I continue to learn things about myself, even now. And you and I are learning things about the world around us that we didn't know before we had to exist in it in different ways, during this pandemic time.

Take time to sit, to meditate: just breathe, letting all extra thoughts flow right through your mind and back out, while you breathe and listen. It's amazing how calming that is.

Take some time to just walk a bit and notice the world around you. If you have the chance to do this regularly, notice the small and large changes in nature. Hear the birds. See the beauty of the butterflies and bees. And oh! The flowers!

This world is indeed wonderfully made, and so are we. Thanks be to God!

See you in church, up close or from afar. Blessings in Christ to you, friends.  
Pastor Lisa

### **Angels Among Us**

"A gentle, old soul" describes Patsy Schmidt according to the church secretary. Perhaps the word comfortable is more aptly suited instead of old as Connie was not referencing Patsy's age but rather her being and her demeanor. Patsy has been participating in the quilting and stitching groups here at LCC for several years. She was one who helped stitch the Christmas ornaments for the shut ins last year and has already stitched 12 for this year's group. She is an artist who is drawn to painting and stitching flowers and an artist in creating a peaceful environment in her yard through her plants. Whether her experience in the yard or her 22 years at Schneider's Flowerama came first only she knows. She is always willing to share her knowledge and expertise in a kind way. Several house plants of hers has found their way here to brighten the narthex. Norlyn and Patsy shared their back yard on LCC's garden tour last year. When coming to church and parking in the church parking lot you may not know you have enjoyed the beauty of their garden efforts as their backyard touches LCC's property. Theirs is the one with a covered gate.

**Dear LCC Members...**Calling all wood crafters out there that would like to help us out. Helping Hands has been giving a small cross to family when a loved one passes away in honor of that person. We are looking for a person who will take over the making of the crosses. We have a sample of what we want. We will pay for the material to make them. Please call Sally Grenz 701-390-3049 or Pam Hanson 701-391-4897 if you have questions or would be willing to help us out. Thanks, Helping Hands Committee.



# Children Youth & Family Ministry

August 2020



## Church School and Confirmation update:

Faith Formation and Education at LCC is going to look a little different this year with the pandemic of COVID-19. Please know that we at LCC are doing everything thing we can to plan and keep activities, worship, education, and faith formation as normal as possible.

Church school will start on Sunday September 23th, Wednesday School will start on Wednesday September 20th. Confirmation orientation will be on Wednesday, September 16th at 7pm. Confirmation students who will be confirmed this fall will meet at 8pm Wednesday, September 16th

Church school for the first few weeks will be led by Deacon Janie, then our hope is to have volunteers help lead the lesson. We will be using an all age kids curriculum. We will not be using classrooms and will host church school as one big group in the fellowship hall. The lesson itself will be around 20 minutes, then a craft that families can do at the table or take home with them. Currently, there will be no singing during church school. Currently, we do not require people to wear masks in the building, but it is highly encouraged. If we see that kids can keep a mask on for the time we are together then we can start to introduce singing back into church school.

Church school will still start at 9am Sundays in the fellowship hall, and 7pm on Wednesdays in the multi-purpose room. Every Thursday families will receive an email with the zoom link, lesson, and craft so that if they choose to stay home that week they can participate. Please know that this is only because of the pandemic that we will host church school like this, and plan to go back to the way we used to do church school when the pandemic is over.

Confirmation will be hosted on Wednesday's. 7 – 7:15pm confirmation students will meet in their small groups like normal. Then at 7:15pm students will meet in the fellowship hall for large group lessons so that youth can safely physically distance themselves. Families will have the option to zoom in if they do not feel comfortable coming to the building.

If schools were to close and education is solely done online, church school, and confirmation will be hosted solely online here at LCC as well.

We will re-evaluate in December to decide how to run church school and confirmation the second half of the year.

### CONTACT INFO:

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# E-News

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## Worship Times:

Wednesday Worship  
Living Water Service  
6:15pm (School year)

Sunday Worship  
The River Service  
10:00am live streamed  
only

Lisa Ahlness, Pastor

Office Hours:  
M -TH 9-4pm  
Fri. 9-1pm School Year  
Summer Hours 9-1

## Lutheran Church of the Cross

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The Church Council meets once a month; the third Tuesday, at 6:30pm. The Council meetings are open to the congregation and all are encouraged to attend a meeting or to visit with a Council member if you have questions or concerns regarding the church. The Council is currently meeting via Zoom. Let Krisi Kunz know if you'd like to attend and a invitation will be sent to join Zoom.

**“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”**